

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00958 091609Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 HA-05 NEA-10 EA-10 /117 W
-----034722 100703Z /14

R 091317Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3239
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PCAT, MASS, SW
SUBJECT: MORE ON SWEDISH WEAPONS EXPORTS

REF: STOCKHOLM 557

1. IN A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE MARCH 6, MINISTER OF COMMERCE
STAFFAN BURENSTAM LINDER DENIED THAT SWEDISH LAWS ARE BEING
CIRCUMVENTED THROUGH SALE OF SWEDISH-LICENSED WEAPONS TO
THIRD COUNTRIES. HE EXPLAINED THAT SWEDISH FIRMS WISHING TO
CONTRACT FOR WEAPONS MANUFACTURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE IN
REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE WAR MATERIAL INSPECTOR WHEN THE
LICENSING AGREEMENT IS MADE.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, LICENSING OF MILITARY HARDWARE
GOES ON ONLY ON A LIMITED SCALE: ABOUT 20 AGREEMENTS ARE NOW
IN FORCE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PLANES, WEAPONS, AND AMMUNITION.
ONLY TWO OF THESE AGREEMENTS ARE IN FORCE WITH COUNTRIES TO WHICH
SWEDEN WOULD NOT APPROVE WEAPONS EXPORTS, HE SAID.

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THESE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED IN 1952 AND 1968.

3. COMMENTING ON ASSERTIONS BROUGHT FORTH BY MAJ-BRITT
THEORIN, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP WHO IS PERHAPS THE
LEADING ANTI-MILITARY SPOKESMAN IN SWEDEN TODAY, BURENSTAM
LINDER DENIED THAT ANY MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN PRODUCED
IN ARGENTINA UNDER SWEDISH LICENSE, BUT AGREED THAT DIRECT

EXPORTS HAD GONE ON UNTIL JUNE OF LAST YEAR. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE USE OF BOFORS CANNON IN THE CYPRUS CONFLICT AS BASED ON A VERY OLD LICENSE FOR MANUFACTURING OF SUCH WEAPONS IN ITALY, WHERE THEY WERE FURTHER DEVELOPED AND WOUND UP IN THE HOSTILITIES. HOWEVER, HE REPEATED EARLIER ASSERTIONS THAT WEAPONS EXPORTS ARE NECESSARY IF SWEDEN IS TO MAINTAIN ITS OWN WEAPONS INDUSTRY, AND THAT MANY COUNTRIES WOULD PREFER TO BUY FROM SWEDEN AND NOT BECOME DEPENDENT ON EITHER SUPERPOWER.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THEORIN HOPES TO KEEP THE ISSUE ALIVE, THE ABSENCE THUS FAR OF ANY CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF SWEDISH LAW OR CASES OF CONTINUING WEAPONS EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES OR OPPRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD TEND TO DAMPEN THE ISSUE IN SWEDEN. THE FACT THAT THEORIN AND BURENSTAM LINDER DEBATED BEFORE A PRACTICALLY EMPTY HOUSE ON THIS OCCASION MAY REFLECT THIS TENDENCY.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, ARMS, LAW, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STOCKH00958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780107-0790
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780385/aaaaculr.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3e5a4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STOCKHOLM 557
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3381467
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON SWEDISH WEAPONS EXPORTS
TAGS: PCAT, MASS, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e5a4cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014